



Scheme of Delegation

Contents

1. Rationale	4
2. General Information	4
3. Central Functions	6
4. Financial Delegated Authority	7
5. HR Levels of Authority	12
6. Operational Level of Authority	17

Version History

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September 2023	Board of Trustees	5	Review and amend in line with PCR Procurement thresholds.
1 September 2024	Board of Trustees	6	
1 December 2024	Board of Trustees	7	Increase 3 quote threshold to £3,999
August 2025	Board of Trustees	8	Page 8 – Ordering goods and services up to £3,999 – approval must be sought and limit updated to £214,904 Page 4 – Values and Ambitions Page 6 – Director list updated Throughout – Director of HR updated to HR Manager Throughout – Director of Business and Development updated to Chief Operations officer Page 16 – Central Team term-time holiday approval added

1. Rationale

The underlying principles for this Scheme of Delegation are;

That all academies are in a partnership of equals irrespective of their length of membership.

- The Trust is a registered charity and it remains true to its aims and objectives
- The Trust is mindful that their function is to ensure that all statutory obligations are met

2. General Information

Values and ambitions

We believe that all learners can be powerful learners given access to extraordinary learning experiences. We want children and the academies they attend to be confident, successful and ambitious.

We envisage a Trust where well led, highly skilled and committed professionals collaborate, learn and innovate together to ensure that all academies are successful and where all learners have access to effective and innovative provision that meets their needs and aspirations.

We want to add value to achievement and raise standards. We also want to change lives. We know this requires our provision and our practice to be world class – because of the distance we have to travel, we understand that good will not be good enough and that we need to develop a shared appreciation of excellence and then strive to enact this every day.

We take learning seriously and work together to create a vibrant culture in which this can happen. We know that it's what we do that counts and that our thinking must be visible in classrooms if it is to have leverage. Children are at the forefront of all that we do and aspire to do. We take serious steps to engage them, to hear their voice in authentic ways and then to use their insight and expertise to develop radical pedagogies that taps into their passions and interests and use the potential of emergent technologies.

Members

Members are the ultimate layer of governance in the Trust. They appoint and remove Trustees, amend our Articles of Association and hold our Trustees to account.

Trustees

Trustees set the strategic direction and strategy for the Trust. They hold Directors to account, ensure financial efficiency and probity and ensure the Trust is legally compliant. The Board is governed by non-executive Trustees constituted under a Memorandum of Association and Article of Association. The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that high standards of corporate governance are maintained. The Trustees exercise their powers of functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic leadership role in the running of the academies. This affords greater opportunities for collaboration not only with regards to teaching and learning but also in terms of the management of each academy, including the procurement of goods and services.

The Trustees are also governed by the terms of any Funding Agreement that are in place and the Academies Trust Handbook (ATH).

Academy Improvement Committee

The Academy Improvement Committees are a sub-committee of the Trustees. The role of the Academy Improvement Committee (AIC) is to carry the Trust's vision, values, policies, priorities and in addition, to develop the local community links.

The Academy Improvement Committees are made up of members who are expected to question, challenge and support the academy's leadership.

Directors

The Trust Directors are appointed to manage the business and academy improvement strategies of the Trust within the parameters set by Trustees. Working within these parameters, Directors have the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Trust's operations and Academy improvement.

Directors are invited to attend termly Trustee meetings as and when required.

Composition of Academy Improvement Committees

Type of Member	Number	Term of Office	How they are elected
Principal	Up to 3	Indefinite	By the Board of Trustees
Trust Representative	1	Indefinite	By the Board of Trustees
Parent	2	Until their child leaves the academy	By the Board of Trustees
Community	Up to 3	4 years	By the Board of Trustees
Clerk	1	Indefinite	By the Board of Trustees

3. Central Functions

As part of the Trust, we aim to have the greatest amount of impact with efficacy. A contribution of 6.8% from each academy's GAG income enables access to a whole range of functions and services provided or procured centrally.

Named authority

Board of Trustees	Trustees
Chief Executive Officer / Accounting Officer	CEO/Darren Holmes
Chief Finance Officer	CFO/Jodie Osbourne
Directors	Lauren Pilgrim - Chief Operations Officer Liz Thompson - Director of Governance and Development Leah Collins – HR Manager Brett Webster - Director of Information Technology Jaimie Holbrook - Director of Improvement and Effectiveness (Development Lead) Rebecca Clayton - Director of Improvement and Performance (Development Lead) Delyth Linacre – Director of Early Years (Development Lead) Anne Munro – Director of SEND

4. Financial Delegated Authority

Financial Delegated Authority
Budget Setting
Annual budgets require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer prior to being presented to Trustees for approval via the Finance and Human Resource Committee. Directors and the Central Team must seek approval from the CFO for all expenditure relating to the central function via the Office Manager – in line with procurement limits set out below. Principals will submit their Academy Improvement Plan and Summary SEF with relevant costings to the Standards Committee before the end of September each year. AIP must include a financial summary outlining expenditure. Academy staffing costs must be at or below 75% of income.

Delegated Duty	Value	Delegated Authority	Comment
If it is estimated that the cost of a contract is above the PCR threshold for procurement spending, the Trust will seek legal advice to ensure it runs a PCR compliant buying process. The current PCR threshold for all goods and most services is £214,904. A 'light touch regime', with a higher threshold of £663,540 applies for some services that are specifically for education provision. We will seek legal advice to determine if any procurement run by the Trust qualifies. Data Protection Officer (Liz Thompson) to be involved in all new contracts or contract renewals to ensure GDPR compliance			
Approving adverse variances compared to the most recent budget or forecast	Unlimited	Chief Financial Officer	Reports to Finance Committee

Ordering goods and services (including advertising of Tenders and award of contracts)	Up to £3,999	Principal	Approval must be sought by a Director before work / service / contract commences. All expenditure to be in line with the principles of best value. If possible 3 quotes should be obtained in order to benchmark costs.
	Up to £9,999	Principal	Expenditure between to £3,999 to £49,999 require 3 written quotations
	£10,000 - £19,999	CFO	
	£20,000- £49,999	CFO or Chief Operations Officer	Expenditure over £20,000 to be approved by CFO to be presented to Trustees.
	£50,000 - £214,904	Chief Operations Officer	Procurement can be considered below this figure and presented to Trustees.
	£214,904 and above	Director of Governance	If spending is above the PCR threshold for procurement spending the trust will seek legal advice. £214,904 Indicative value exc 20% VAT £177,897 for supply, service and design contracts. 5,336,937 Indicative value exc 20% VAT £4,447,447 for works contracts.
Capital Projects	All projects	Chief Operations Officer	Annual capital programme to be approved by Trustees
To determine services to be included in Operational Services Framework	All services	Trustees	All academies to operate under the Operational Services Framework. Academies must use services provided centrally.

Delegated Duty	Value	Delegated Authority	Comment
Authorising monthly salary payments	Unlimited	CFO and Chief Operations Officer	All significant variances to be reported to Trustees
Signatures for Cheques, BACS payment	Up to £10,000	Any two signatures in line with the Bank Mandate	Cheques only to be used in an emergency
Authorisations and other bank transfers	Any amounts over £10,000	Two signatures in accordance with the bank mandate	
Signatories for grant claims and DfE Returns	Unlimited	Signatories from the following (as required): Accounting Officer Chief Operations Officer CFO	Signatories as required by DfE.

Delegated Duty	Value	Delegated Authority	Comment
Disposal of assets	Up to £500	Principal	CFO to report to Trustees
	Over £500	CFO	Prior approval from Trustees via CFO
	Over £20,000 (if purchased via grant) and disposal of land and buildings	CFO and Secretary of State	Prior written consent from Secretary of State of Education via the CFO
Write-off bad debts	Up to £1000	CFO	
	Over £1,000	Trustees CFO plus DfE approval (where the debts are more than 1% of total annual income or £45k (whichever is smaller), per single transaction, cumulatively 5% of total annual income as long as have 2 years of timely unqualified submitted accounts).	Report to Trustees
Write-off overpayments to staff	Up to £1,000	CFO	Limit as per DfE apply as included in write off of bad debts.
Purchase or sale of freehold property	Any	Trustees, CEO plus DfE approval required	Secretary of State approval required
Granting or taking up of any leasehold or tenancy agreement exceeding 3 years	Any	Trustees, CEO plus DfE approval required	Secretary of State approval required

Any guarantees, indemnities and letters of comfort entered into	Any	Trustees, CEO plus DfE approval required	
Ex-gratia payments	Any	Trustees, CFO plus DfE approval required	
Severance Payment	Up to £50,000	CEO	Termly reports provided to Trustees Any severance payment in excess of £50,000 must be referred to Secretary of State of Education.
ICT Procurement	Any	Director of ICT	All procurement of ICT must be through the Director of ICT

5. HR Levels of Authority

HR Levels of authority	
APPOINTMENTS	
All appointment panels must contain at least one member who has undertaken Safer Recruitment Training. The CEO may nominate an alternative representative if they are unavailable to make up a panel.	
All academy- based appointments require prior approval from CFO and HR Manager.	
CEO	Board of Trustees
Chief Operations Officer/Chief Financial Officer	Trustee, CEO and 1 other as determined by the CEO
Directors	Trustee, CEO and 1 other as determined by the CEO
Principal	Trustee/CEO, Director and 1 other as determined by the CEO
Vice Principals	CEO, Principal and 1 other as determined by the CEO
Assistant Principals and SLT Support Staff	Principal, Vice Principal and 1 other as determined by the Principal
TLR Posts (existing post)	Principal
All other Teaching posts	Principal and 1 other as determined by the Principal
All Support Staff posts (other than SLT posts)	Principal and 1 other as determined by the Principal
All Business Manager or Finance post	Principal, CFO and 1 other as determined by the Principal

DISCIPLINARY CASES AND DISMISSALS

For all disciplinary cases and dismissals the following delegation model shall apply :

Disciplinary

Capability (professional competence)

Ill Health Capability

Redundancy

Some other substantial situation

For all disciplinary cases and dismissals, the following delegation model shall apply:

Posts	Delegated Authority	Appeal
CEO	Board of Trustees	3 Trustees
Directors including CFO	Trustee or CEO	3 Trustees
Principal	Trustee or CEO	3 Trustees
Vice Principal and SLT Members	Trustee or CEO	CEO or Trustee
All other Academy posts	Principal	Director, HR Manager/nominated person, AIC Member
All other Central team posts	HR Manager or CEO	Trustee, CEO, Chief Operations Officer

GRIEVANCE		
Posts	Delegated Authority	Appeal
CEO	Board of Trustees	Chair of Trustees
Directors	Trustee or CEO	Trustees
Principal	Director of People or CEO	Trustee, CEO or Director
Vice Principal/SLT Member	Principal	HR Manager, AIC Member
All other Academy posts	Principal	AIC Member, HR Manager / nominated person
All other Central team posts	HR Manager or CEO	Trustee / CEO

OTHER HR FUNCTIONS	
Function	Delegated Authority
All settlement agreements	Principal and HR Manager to agree terms – CEO to approve. Report to be received by Trustees
Teachers Pay – NPS, Threshold/UPS	Principal with Director for improvement
Staffing restructures	CFO, HR Manager and Principal (where appropriate)
Decision to make redundancies	Principal and HR Manager
Authorisation of redundancy/early retirement payments	CFO or HR Manager
Determination of CEO's salary/pay grade	Trustees on recommendation from Finance Committee
Determination of pay progression of Principal	CEO reported to the Finance Committee and Trustees on the basis of Performance Management
Determination of pay progression of Directors	CEO recommendation to the Finance Committee to be agreed by the Trustees on the basis of Performance Management
Pay progression: Business Manager Support Staff	Principal with CFO Principal
Variation to contracts of employment	Principal with involvement from HR Manager and CFO

Ensure all HR policies are implemented	Principal is responsible to ensure all staff work within the HR policies.
Administration of employment contracts, pay and conditions of services (with the exception of previous delegated authorities)	HR Manager (with reference to the CEO, CFO or Chief Operations Officer as appropriate).
Ensure all staff have appropriate qualifications for the appointed role.	School based staff – Principal Central staff – HR Manager.
To ensure that the apprenticeship levy is used effectively, and impact is reported to Trustees	Principal and HR Manager
To ensure all staff have access to the Trust professional development offer	CEO and Principal
Central Team term-time holidays	All central staff to seek approval from CEO.

6. Operational Level of Authority

Operational Level of authority		
Delegated Duty	Delegated Authority	Comment
Admissions	Trustees	All academies will follow the Trust's Admission Policy
Health and Safety	Director of Estates and Sustainability	It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that health and safety laws are adhered to and the appropriate health and safety certificates are in place. The operational compliance of this function will be delegated on a day to day basis to the Chief Operations Officer and their team.
Income Generation	Principal	
Insurance	Chief Operations Officer	Insurance for our academies will be procured through the government's RPA scheme unless agreed otherwise by the Chief Operations Officer.
Staff absence insurance	Director of People	To ensure all academies have appropriate cover in place with the correct provider
Investments	Trustees	CFO continuously reviews investment options and reports to the Trustees
Permanent Exclusions	Principal and Academy Improvement Committee	All academies will follow the Trust's Exclusions Policy for permanent exclusions and, where possible, work with the Local Authority to ensure independent permanent exclusion appeals.
Published Admission Number (PAN)	Trustees	The PAN must be set each academic year. There are consultation requirements where the PAN is being amended.
Service Level Agreements / Contracts	Chief Operations Officer	Depending on the context of each academy, each academy may have different SLAs / Contracts in place. It is the responsibility of the Business Manager, working with the Chief Operations Officer or CFO, to manage local SLAs and contracts. From time to time the Trust may procure SLAs on behalf of all academies as part of a best value review.
Safeguarding	Principals	Trustees will, in respect of each academy, act in accordance with, and be bound by, all relevant statutory and regulatory provisions for safeguarding. All academies will follow Trust's policy on safeguarding.
Development of Trust wide policies	Directors	Changes to policies ratified by Trustees.

Development of Academy policies	Principal	All policies checked for compliance with Trust.
Appeals	Director of Governance	All appeals to be carried out by Academy Improvement Committee with support from Trust.
Catering Policies	Director of Facilities and Sustainability	Principals to ensure policies re implemented and followed.
Business Continuity	Director of Facilities and Sustainability	Implement business continuity policy if required.
Sustainability Plan	Director of Facilities and Sustainability	Impliment Trust wide Sustainability Plan.

Academy Improvement		
Delegated Duty	Delegated Authority	Comment
Development of Curriculum Policy	Principal	Principals are responsible for developing a curriculum policy with the support from Directors (Development Leads).
Approval of Curriculum Policy/Plan	CEO	Each Curriculum policy/plan should be submitted with the Academy Improvement Plan and SEF by the end of September.
To ensure and assure high standards of teaching for all pupils	Principal	Validated by AIC, Trust Central Team and Trustees.
Approval of Academy Improvement Plan	Trustees	All plans to be submitted with a fully costed staffing structure by the end of September

Approval of Self Evaluation	Trustees	All plans to be submitted by the end of September.
To ensure that pupils with additional needs are identified and appropriate provisions are in place	Principal	With support from Trust SEND Director.
To be accountable for pupils' outcomes	Principal	Monitored through the Director of Improvement role (Development Leads). Details reported by Directors of Improvement at each Standards committee (3 times per year).
Establishment of CPD/INSET days	Principal	Inform Trust Leadership Team.
Educational Visits	Principal	Must be submitted on Bromcom.
Monitoring and projecting pupil numbers	Principal	Must be submitted to the Trust on an annual basis each September. Where there is a 10% increase or decrease on pupil numbers for a 1 and 2 form entry school the Development Lead must be notified. Where there is a 5% increase or decrease on pupil numbers for a 3 form entry school the Development Lead must be notified.

Governance		
Delegated duty	Delegated authority	Comment
To appoint (and remove) Members of the Academy Improvement Committee	Board of Trustees	
To appoint and agree clerking agreements	Director of Governance	
To maintain Single Central Record in line with statutory regulation	Principal	Must be on the Trust template
To amend the academy day or holidays	CEO	Principals to prepare a business case and submit to Directors (Development Leads)
To ensure that the academy website is up to date with all statutory requirements	Principal	

To ensure that all Trust policies and procedures are followed and any breaches are reported to the Trust	Principal	Add to AIC meeting/Academy profile
Approval of Flexi Schooling requests	Director of Governance	All requests will be shared with Trustees
Information Governance	Principal	All systems, resources and support work that involves sharing personal or sensitive data i.e names, DOB etc needs to be approved by the DPO.
To approve the incorporation of new academies	Trustees	Due diligence framework implemented
Wrap Around Care requests	Director of Governance	All parental 'right to request' cases will be heard and responded to by the Director of Governance